

RUSSELL ASSERTS INSTABILITY BARS A SAIGON VICTORY

'Changing-Chair' Regime Is
Assailed by Senator After
a Briefing by McCone

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 11—Senator Richard B. Russell said today that there could be no victory over the Communist insurgents in South Vietnam unless "a more stable government" was established in Saigon.

The Georgia Democrat said that "up to now we have been losing ground instead of gaining it." The situation is at best a stalemate that promises to be prolonged endlessly, he said.

Mr. Russell's comments were made after a 3 hour and 15 minute briefing of the Armed Services Committee and the Defense Appropriations subcommittee by John A. McCone, Director of Central Intelligence. Mr. Russell is chairman of both Senate groups.

[A general strike called by Buddhist opponents of the South Vietnamese Government disrupted activities in Hue, Quangtri and Danang in central Vietnam.]

Aid Talks to Resume

At the State Department it was announced that negotiations in Saigon for increased aid to South Vietnam would be resumed "with the growth of stability and unity there" following the restoration of civilian control of the Government.

A three-week crisis in relations between the United States and South Vietnam was eased two days ago when Lieut. Gen. Nguyen Khanh, commander of South Vietnam's armed forces, agreed to restore control to the civilian Government headed by Premier Tran Van Huong.

General Khanh acted for a group of young generals who dissolved the High National Council—the civilian legislature, on Dec. 20 and arrested a number of civilian politicians.

Soon afterward the United States suspended negotiations on an increase in aid until the military agreed to restore the Government to civilian control. There was no interruption in the flow of scheduled aid, which has been running at about \$2 million a day.

Asks for Re-evaluation

Senator Russell said today that it was necessary to "re-evaluate" the whole United States position in South Vietnam. However, he has also emphasized that his committee will restrict itself to the military situation and not trespass on matters of policy, which are the province of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Considering the "changing-chair Government" in Saigon, Senator Russell said, it was "a miracle" that the war against the Vietcong had been carried on as well as it had.

He also expressed confidence in Maxwell D. Taylor, the United States Ambassador in Saigon. He said he understood that "some State Department people think he [Mr. Taylor] talks too brusquely to 'young Turks,'" in the South Vietnamese Army. "I think sometimes that's justified," he added.

After the briefing, several Senators said that Mr. McCone had not concentrated on South Vietnam but had given them an intelligence picture "around the world."

Senator Russell said that he had heard nothing that would justify and scaling down of the nation's defense efforts. He said he was not happy about the reduction in the manned bomber program, but he was quick to add that the United States still had the strongest striking force in the world.

The Soviet Union, he said, possessed advanced weapons and was working hard to improve its missiles and achieve a reliable antimissile missile.



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DISCUSS WORLD PROBLEMS: John A. McCone, left, director of Central Intelligence Agency, with Senator Richard B. Russell, Georgia Democrat. Mr. McCone briefed Senators yesterday for three hours and fifteen minutes.